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**Donovan in Havana****Cuba Prisoner  
Release 'Near'**

CPYRGHT

Months of negotiations over the release of 1,113 prisoners of the 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba appeared near success today.

There was no official confirmation that a ransom deal had been arranged with Cuba's Premier Fidel Castro, but several developments pointed to an imminent break in the situation:

New York attorney James B. Donovan, counsel for the Cuban Families Committee for the Liberation of Prisoners of War, was

reported to have left New York for Havana. Town and Village, a weekly New York newspaper, said in a copyrighted story that he flew to Cuba Sunday night in a private plane to complete arrangements for the prisoners' release.

The Miami News said Donovan was expected to stop off in Miami en route to Havana, accompanied by Alvaro Sanchez, a leader of the Cuban families committee; and Mrs. Berta Barreto, participant in the negotiations.

In Washington, a State Department official said Donovan's passport has been validated for a trip to Cuba.

Donovan, a key figure in the efforts to raise \$62 million worth of medicine, food and other supplies which Castro has demanded as "fines" for the prisoners, said Sunday in New York he could not comment on the status of the negotiations "for the time being."

A spokesman for the American Red Cross said the Farrell Lines freighter African pilot was standing by in Baltimore harbor to carry supplies to Cuba for the barter "when and if needed."

A Farrell Lines spokesman indicated the ship would sail today but declined to give its destination. A call went out for a sailing crew to report.

The Baltimore Sun said the ship tentatively was scheduled to sail for Miami today to pick up \$13 million worth of medicines and food and then sail to Havana. It said the prisoners would be flown back.

In Havana, a usually reliable informant said the deal was near completion, with only details remaining, such as which prisoners will be released first and how the exchange will be coordinated.